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Halstead Urban District

IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE

COUNTY OF ESSEX.

ANNUAL REPORT

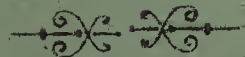
OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

J. S. RANSON,

M.R.C.S. ; L.R.C.P. ; D.P.H.

FOR THE YEAR 1938.



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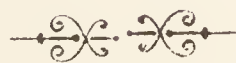
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SHARDHIGHS,
HALSTEAD,
ESSEX.

June 4th, 1939.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HALSTEAD
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

The outstanding feature of the year 1938 was the extensive outbreak of infantile paralysis of which the first notified cases occurred in the Halstead Urban District. This outbreak has been separately reported upon.

The number of cases of other notifiable diseases has been low.

The year has seen the new Housing Estate at Mitchells Avenue almost completed.

I wish to take this opportunity of thanking the Council and the people of the Urban District generally for their consideration and assistance given to me in my work with regard to the outbreak of infantile paralysis.

I have the honour to be,

Your Obedient Servant,

J. S. RANSON.

SECTION A.—Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in Acres)	..	...	...	1,172
Registrar General's estimate of the resident population for 1938	...	...	...	5,832
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1938) according to the Rate Books	...	...	..	1,879
Rateable Value and Sum represented by a penny rate	...	£26,209	£97 . 14 . 0	

Extracts from vital statistics :—

Live Births	Total	Male	Female	
Legitimate	81	43	38	Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ... 14·7
Illegitimate	5	2	3	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ... 33·8
Still Births	3			Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ... 13·8
Deaths	80			Corrected death rate (correction figure 0·8) ... 11·0
				Deaths from puerperal causes ... nil.
Death rate of infants under one year of age :—				
	All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	11·6
	Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			12·3
	Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births			nil.
	Deaths from measles (all ages)	...	...	nil.
	Deaths from whooping cough (all ages)	..	...	nil.
	Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	nil.

The social conditions of the area have remained as in former years.

There have been no noteworthy outbreaks of infectious disease.

TABLE A.
(Registrar General's Figures.)

Cause of Death.				Male.	Female.
1	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	-	-	0	0
2	Measles	-	-	0	0
3	Scarlet Fever	-	-	0	0
4	Whooping Cough	-	-	0	0
5	Diphtheria	-	-	0	0
6	Influenza	-	-	0	0
7	Encephalitis Lethargica	-	-	0	0
8	Cerebrospinal Fever	-	-	0	0
9	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	-	-	2	1
10	Other Tuberculous Diseases	-	-	0	0
11	Syphilis	-	-	0	0
12	General Paralysis of the Insane, Tabes Dorsalis	-	-	0	0
13	Cancer, Malignant Disease	-	-	9	4
14	Diabetes	-	-	1	1
15	Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c.	-	-	1	4
16	Heart Disease	-	-	6	10
17	Aneurysm	-	-	1	0
18	Other Circulatory Diseases	-	-	2	3
19	Bronchitis	-	-	2	4
20	Pneumonia (all forms)	-	-	1	0
21	Other Respiratory Diseases	-	-	1	1
22	Peptic Ulcer	-	-	0	1
23	Diarrhœa etc. (under 2 years)	-	-	0	0
24	Appendicitis	-	-	0	0
25	Cirrhosis of the Liver	-	-	0	0
26	Other Diseases of Liver etc.	-	-	0	1
27	Other Digestive Diseases	-	-	0	0
28	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	-	-	0	0
29	Puerperal Sepsis	-	-	0	0
30	Other Puerperal Causes	-	-	0	0
31	Congenital Debility, Premature Birth Malformations, etc.	-	-	1	0
32	Senility	-	-	3	8
33	Suicide	-	-	2	0
34	Other Violence	-	-	3	0
35	Other defined Diseases	-	-	3	4
36	Causes ill-defined or unknown	-	-	0	1
Totals				38	43

TABLE B.
Deaths at various Ages.
 (Registered and transferred.)

Age Group.					No. of Deaths.
Under one year	...	...	...	...	1
1 year and under 2 years	...	...	...	...	1
2 years	„	5	„	...	1
5	„	15	„	...	2
15	„	25	„	...	3
25	„	35	„	...	0
35	„	45	„	...	3
45	„	55	„	...	8
55	„	65	„	...	4
65	„	75	„	...	29
75 years and upwards	...	...	...	...	30
Total					82

SECTION B.—General provision of Health Services for the Area.

A. PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

(1) J. S. RANSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health (also M.O.H. Halstead Rural District and Assistant County Medical Officer for the Halstead Area.)

(2) W. A. NICHOLSON, M.I.M.C.E.

Sanitary Inspector (also Surveyor.)

B. There have been no changes or developments in the following services during the year.

- (1) Laboratory facilities.
- (2) Ambulance facilities.
- (3) Nursing in the Home.
- (4) Clinics and treatment Centres.
- (5) Hospitals.

The motor ambulance stationed at the Infectious Diseases Hospital is used for all types of cases.

SECTION C.—Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

WATER SUPPLY.

The supply is obtained from a boring 300 feet deep situated near the River Colne, from which it is pumped into two service reservoirs with a storage capacity of 134,000 gallons. During the month of June the rest level in the well dropped a further 12 inches and remained at that level during the year. The rest level is now 2 feet below normal. One analysis of the water was made during the year when the report showed that it was of good organic quality and Bacteriologically of the highest degree of purity. 600 yards of 4 inch diameter distributing main and 1100 yards of 3 inch distributing main have been laid to provide a supply of water to a new Housing Estate developed by the Council.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

595 yards of 12" diameter glazed pipe sewer, 180 yards of 9" diameter and 916 yards of 6" diameter have been laid to receive the drainage from the houses on the new Housing Estate.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

There are 18 pail closets and 2 pit closets in the district

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

All dry refuse is collected weekly in motor scavenging lorry by the Council's employees and disposed of by tipping in old gravel pit.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Number of Inspections and Re-inspections	...	1206
Nuisances detected	... ..	424
Water Closets repaired	... ..	96
Dustbins renewed	... ..	64
Drains repaired	... ..	19
Sinks provided in cottages	... ..	177
Other nuisances abated	... ..	55
Informal Notices served	... ..	205
Statutory Notices served	... ..	80
Informal Notices complied with	... ..	138
Statutory Notices complied with	... ..	73

CAMPING SITES.

There are no camping sites in the district.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

One case of nuisance from smoke occurred in connection with a fish frying business and this was abated by the owner providing a furnace using smokeless fuel.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no privately owned Swimming Baths or Pools open to the public. A covered Swimming Bath is maintained by the Council, and supplied with water from the Town mains. The Bath is emptied every week and thoroughly cleaned. The water is sprayed with Voxsan.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Only one house has been found to be infested. The house was sprayed with Pyagra Insecticide and the house was freed.

SCHOOLS.

The Sanitary condition of the Schools is satisfactory and all are supplied with water from the Town Mains.

SECTION D.—Housing.**1. *Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.***

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	172
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	509
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 & 1932	19
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	19
(3)		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	14

(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	112
2. <i>Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices.</i>		
	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers.	59
3. <i>Action under Statutory Powers during the year.</i>		
(a) <i>Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 & 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.</i>		
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	48
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices—	
(a)	By Owners	40
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil.
(b) <i>Proceedings under Public Health Acts.</i>		
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil.
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—	
(a)	By Owners	Nil.
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil.
(c) <i>Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.</i>		
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	14
(2)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	17

(d) *Proceedings under Section 12 of the
Housing Act, 1936.*

(1)	Number of separate tenements or under-ground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	Nil.
(2)	Number of separate tenements or under-ground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	Nil.

4. *Housing Act, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding.*

(a)	(1)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	24
	(2)	Number of families dwelling therein	...	...	...	24
	(3)	Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	...	184
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	7
(c)	(1)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	12
	(2)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	...	...	71

SECTION E.—Inspection and Supervision of Food.

MILK SUPPLY

There are 7 Cowkeepers and 9 Purveyors of Milk registered in the District, and the premises are kept in a clean and sanitary condition.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

There are 5 Slaughterhouses and 10 Bakehouses in the District. The premises are kept in a clean and sanitary condition.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if known)	788	Nil	416	2496	1716
Number inspected	83	Nil	61	196	175
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcase condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	57

SECTION F.—Prevalence and control over Infectious and other Diseases.

The outbreak of infantile paralysis was the outstanding feature of the year. This outbreak has been the subject of a special report, and for the purpose of this report the following observations need only to be made.

The earliest notified cases occurred in the Halstead Urban District (July 15th). Nine other cases were notified between July 15th and July 30th and one missed case much later (November 11th).

This outbreak was followed by 17 other cases in the Rural District and a large number generally throughout the County.

The Halstead Isolation Hospital was fitted out for the reception and treatment of cases of this disease only, and a total of 92 cases were admitted up to December 31st.

The Hospital still has 17 cases therein and at present does not admit cases of other infectious diseases.

Arrangements were made for cases of these diseases to be admitted to the Saffron Walden Isolation Hospital, and four cases of scarlet fever were admitted thereto.

No case of diphtheria occurred during the year.

There has been no noteworthy outbreak of any non-notifiable acute infectious disease during the year.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

No action has been taken under Section 66 of the Public Health Act 1925 for the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from disease or injury to the eyes.

TUBERCULOSIS.

No action has been taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925 (relating to persons suffering from tuberculosis employed in the milk trade) or under Section 62 of the Public Health Act 1925 (relating to the compulsory removal to Hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.)

TABLE C.
Cases of Infectious Disease Notified during the Year.

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever ...	8	6	0
Diphtheria ...	0	0	0
Pneumonia ...	0	0	0
Erysipelas ...	0	0	0
Paratyphoid Fever ...	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	1	0
Poliomyelitis ...	12	12	0
Dysentery ...	1	1	0
Totals	22	20	0

AGE GROUPS OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED.

Under 1 year	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65 & over
Scarlet Fever					4	1	2		1		
Poliomyelitis	1	1	1	1	7			1			
Puerperal Pyrexia								1			
Dysentery							1				
Totals	1	1	1	1	11	1	3	2	1		22

SPECIMENS EXAMINED BY BACTERIOLOGIST.

Specimen.	Number Examined.
Swabs for Diphtheria ...	14
Sputa ...	56
Blood for Typhoid ...	3
Hair for Ringworm ...	0
Miscellaneous ...	4
Water ...	1
Total	<u>78</u>

4. TUBERCULOSIS.
NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1938.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	RESPIRATORY.		NON-RESPIRATORY.		RESPIRATORY.		NON-RESPIRATORY.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 ...								
1 ...								
5 ...								
15 ...						1		
25 ...								
35 ...	1				1			
45 ...					1			
55 ...	1							
65 upwards.								
Totals.	2	0	0	0	2	1	0	0

Two cases were admitted to a County Sanatoria during the year.
One death was that of an unnotified case.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.
Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers prosecuted. (4)
Factories with mechanical power ...	24	Nil	Nil
Factories without mechanical power ...	81	Nil	Nil
† Other Premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises).	Nil	Nil	Nil
† Electrical Stations should be reckoned as factories. Total ...	105	Nil	Nil

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
Want of cleanliness (S. 1.)	Nil	Nil		
Overcrowding (S. 2)	Nil	Nil		
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3)	Nil	Nil		
Inadequate ventilation (S. 4)	Nil	Nil		
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6)	Nil	Nil		
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7)	Nil	Nil		
	Nil	Nil		
	Nil	Nil		
Other offences ...	Nil	Nil		
(Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937.)				
Total	Nil	Nil		

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS FOR THE YEAR 1938.

We have been favoured by Mr. FRANCIS N. ADAMS, B.A. with the following monthly averages for the year 1938, taken at the Halstead Brewery, Essex, Climatological Station (139 feet above sea level) :—

1938.	Baro- meter. Ins.	Thermometers.				Mean tem- pera- ture.	Mean range tem- pera- ture.	Amount of cloud at 9 a.m. [0—10]	Temperatures.				Relative humidity saturation = 100.	Rain- fall. Ins.	Days on which rain fell,	Max. rainfall.	
		At 9 a.m.		Max.	Min.				High- est. Max.	Day of month.	Low- est. Min.	Day of month.				Ins.	Day of month.
		Dry.	Wet.														
January	29.70	41.5	40.2	47.4	36.0	41.7	11.4	7.2	56	24	30	11	89.0	2.74	22	.51	29
February	30.10	40.3	38.4	46.7	34.0	40.8	11.8	6.5	57	26	27	25	85.0	.42	6	.15	26
March	30.13	49.0	45.6	60.2	38.3	49.2	21.9	4.9	68	20, 30	29	7, 8	77.0	.49	3	.21	25
April	30.17	49.4	44.8	56.0	34.3	45.1	21.7	6.3	67	1	23	11	69.5	.32	6	.10	30
May	29.87	54.5	49.2	60.0	42.0	51.0	18.0	7.0	76	14	25	8	67.5	1.52	12	.39	17
June	29.95	62.9	56.2	70.5	50.8	60.6	19.7	7.2	79	14, 21, 25	39	13	64.5	.73	7	.40	1
July	29.87	63.5	57.5	71.0	51.7	61.3	19.3	7.2	83	31	42	2	67.5	1.25	15	.30	5
August	29.90	64.8	59.8	72.4	53.4	62.9	19.0	6.5	84	1, 6	38	23	72.0	1.39	7	.80	10
September	29.97	61.2	57.3	67.0	49.0	58.0	18.0	5.9	81	12	35	3	77.0	1.56	14	.60	27
October	29.78	51.5	50.1	58.5	41.4	49.9	17.1	4.9	66	9	28	25	90.0	2.72	18	.52	3
November	29.74	48.7	47.5	54.9	42.0	48.4	12.9	7.9	70	5	28	30	91.0	2.27	17	.65	25
December	29.77	38.2	37.3	43.4	33.2	38.3	10.2	7.0	55	4, 12	17	21	92.0	3.01	20	.46	31
Average Rainfall for last 10 years (inches):—1929, 24.31 ; 1930, 25.59 ; 1931 22.04 ; 1932, 21.48 ; 1933, 17.08 ; 1934, 18.70 ; 1935, 27.42 ; 1936, 26.57 ; 1937, 27.46. 1938, 18.42. Average:—22.90 inches.															18.42	147	

Attention is drawn to the maximum temperature of 70° on November 5th, 1938, this being the highest November temperature registered at this station during the 46 years of its existence.

